

RUSIE AND FARRELL STRIKE.

NEW YORK'S STAR BATTERY HOLDING OUT FOR BIG MONEY.

Ward Says They Can Accept the Club's Terms or Not Play Ball—A Baseball Executive's Curious Letter to Treasurer Talcott—The Brooklyn Players Will Be Able to Report Next Tuesday—Other News.

New York's crack batter, Rusie and Farrell, are on a strike. They have made exorbitant demands in the way of salary and threats to "quit the diamond" unless they are granted. The New York Club officials, however, say they can't be bluffed and have taken a determined stand. Last year Rusie received a salary of \$2,400, which was as much as any other League pitcher received. When the team was in Chicago on the last Western trip, Treasurer Talcott said to Rusie after he had pitched a particularly good game:

"Anon, if you will report next spring in the condition you are in now I will make you a present."

Rusie evidently concluded that this meant an increase in salary. So when Ward sent him a contract some time ago offering the same terms as last year he failed to reply. Ward wrote him again last week asking him why he did not sign, and yesterday an answer came saying that he would not play ball unless the club paid him a salary so large that it took Ward's breath away.

Farrell received \$3,000 for his services in Washington last year. He got considerably less in Pittsburgh in 1892, but when he was transferred to Wagner's club he refused to sign unless he was paid extra money for joining a weak team. In a letter to Ward, Farrell now uses the same argument except that he should be well remunerated for coming to a strong club, and wins by trying to put his name on a contract for a salary larger than that of the New York players will receive, together with a request for \$1,000 of the part paid to Wagner for his services.

After a conference with Treasurer Talcott yesterday, Ward wrote letters to the refractory players. He informed Rusie that the club's offer to him would be final, and that he could accept it or not, as he might see fit. He sent Ward to Farrell that the club would pay him as much money as he received in Washington, but that he would have to settle the \$1,000 question with the Wagners.

It was rumored among the cranks that Rusie and Farrell had formed a combination to force the club to terms. For every day after April 1 they will be docked until they sign, as their contracts take effect on that date.

There are some rumors, but it is hardly probable that the majority of them retain their love for the game until death. There is no reason why the club should not be satisfied with considerable reverence by the other three enthusiasts. His name is James White Davis, a member of the Consolidated Exchange, who has written many articles on baseball and stories in THE SUN, because of his ability as a dancer. In those days, Mr. Davis was acknowledged as the champion dancer of the Exchange, and still is a prominent figure in the fact. As one of the original players of the Knickerbocker Baseball Club, Mr. Davis can hardly be expected to be a baseball enthusiast, but he is. No fondness of the national game that he desires to be buried by the half players of America and Europe in the dust of oblivion.

The following letter which Treasurer Talcott of the New York Club has just made public speaks for itself:

New York, July 27, 1893.

Mr. Edward T. Alden,
Manager of the Club,
Referring to our conversations on baseball, I now enclose with your request to write you a letter on the subject, the proposed by me, and which I hope will be of service to you.

My wish is that baseball players be invited to subscribe to our cause, and no matter how small a sum may be given, it will be welcome. Please send me with an inscription on my visiting card, but whatever may be given, it will be welcome as possible, without exacting a sum.

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The cognomen of "Father of baseball," Poor Old Dan, is well known to all.

All my relations and friends are to be found in the baseball fraternity.

I am sending you a copy of my baseball, and enclose in the original mail of the old knickerbocker, and will be pleased to receive your views.

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